

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 5, 7, 10 and 11 are currently pending in the present application. Claims 6, 8, 9, and 12 – 14 have been cancelled.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the careful consideration of this case and the notice that claims 1 – 5 and 7 are allowed is acknowledged with appreciation.

The rejection of claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Blackwood et al. (4,749,440) is respectfully traversed. Claim 9 has been cancelled by this reply, therefore rendering this rejection moot. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicants also thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 10 and 11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claim 10 is amended to include the limitations of previously-pending claim 9. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to these claims is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments, the application is respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance, and prompt favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this response or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket # 010986.52822US).

Respectfully submitted,

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